

ISSUED 03/11/2011

PLEASE POST CONSPICUOUSLY

SARATOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

ANNOUNCES

AN OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR

SOCIAL WELFARE EXAMINER

EXAMINATION #63-175

SOCIAL WELFARE EXAMINER, Saratoga County. The results of this eligible list will be used to fill vacancies as they occur under the jurisdiction of the Saratoga County.

SALARY: \$35,558

LAST DAY TO FILE IS MAY 18, 2011

DATE OF THE EXAMINATION IS JUNE 18, 2011

NOTICE: **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS-HANDICAPPED PERSONS:** If special arrangements for testing are required, indicate this on your application form.

RESIDENTS: Candidates must have been legal residents of New York State for at least FOUR months immediately preceding the date of the test. Pursuant to subdivision 4a of Sec. 23 of the Civil Service Law, preference may be given to successful candidates who have been legal residents of the municipality to which the appointment is to be made for at least FOUR months preceding the date of the written test.

APPLICATION FEE: A mandated examination fee of \$7.50 has been imposed by New York State on all Municipalities under the jurisdiction of NYS Civil Service beginning October 1, 1989 for each separate numbered examination for which you apply. However, the "Saratoga County Legislative Board" passed a resolution to absorb this fee for all Saratoga County Residents only. All other applicants must submit the \$7.50 fee for each exam that they apply for. Please make checks payable to the **Saratoga County Treasurer's Office. This fee is non-refundable.**

APPLICATION FEE WAIVER: A waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. **All claims for application fee waiver are subject to verification. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form and submit it with your application by the close of business on the Application Deadline as listed on the Examination Announcement. A copy of this document can be obtained from the Saratoga County Personnel office.**

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for determining financial eligibility for the various programs administered by a local social services district and recommending amounts of assistance in accordance with established policies and procedures. An employee may perform any or a combination of assignments in connection with determining financial eligibility and income maintenance depending on the size, organizational structure and work activity needs of the social services district. The work is performed under direct supervision and involves the review and evaluation of applications and records, direct interviews, and may include field visits with applicants. Does related work as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and two years of clerical experience which shall have involved either accounting, bookkeeping, examining, investigating, or evaluating claims for assistance, veterans or unemployment benefits, insurance, credit or loans.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of an appropriate level New York State's driver's license at the time of appointment.

THE WRITTEN TEST will be designed to measure knowledge, skills and/or abilities in such areas as:

1. **Interpreting and applying written Social Welfare program materials, and using basic arithmetic in determining eligibility for assistance:** Candidates will be presented with written passages related to Social Services policies and procedures and be asked to interpret their meaning and/or apply this material to hypothetical case situations. Secondly, candidates will be given sets of written instructions and regulations regarding such Social Services programs as cash assistance, medical assistance, and food stamps.

Candidates must read and understand the instructions given, including schedules of arithmetic figures, and apply these instructions to hypothetical case problems. Some questions require using arithmetic to compute the correct amount of assistance.

Previous knowledge of Social Services programs or the eligibility process is not required.

2. **Recording case notes:** Candidates will be presented with sentences from a typical case report paragraph and must determine how best the sentences should be arranged in order to convey a coherent and meaningful record.

3. **Interviewing:** Candidates must apply principles and techniques of interviewing to such problems as asking and answering questions, explaining requirements and helping the client understand his or her responsibilities, helping the client feel at ease, structuring and controlling the interview, reacting appropriately to inconsistencies, dealing with a variety of feelings of clients, maintaining confidentiality, and identifying the need for and making appropriate referrals. In addition, some questions may deal with contacting or interacting with other community organizations and agencies to benefit the client or the general public.

A Guide for the Written Test for Social Welfare Examiner is available at the New York State website: www.cs.state.ny.us/testing/localtestguides.cfm . Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

ELIGIBLE LIST: A candidate's eligibility begins when his or her name is placed on the eligible list and continues for a minimum of one year.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES: "UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED, CANDIDATES ARE PERMITTED TO USE QUIET, HAND-HELD, SOLAR OR BATTERY POWERED CALCULATORS."

Devices with 'Typewriter Keyboards,' 'Spell Checkers,' 'Personal Digital Assistants,' 'Address Books,' 'Language Translators,' 'Dictionaries,' or any similar devices are **prohibited**.

SECTION 243-b Provides that any member of the armed forces of the United States who had duly filed an application to compete in a scheduled competitive examination, but was deprived of the opportunity to compete in a scheduled competitive examination due to active military duty be provided with a special military makeup examination

SECTION 85a OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW: In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

VETERAN CREDITS: For the purpose of claiming veteran credits on a Civil Service examination, an applicant must have served in the armed forces of the United States at any time during the following periods:

World War II – December 7, 1941 to and including December 31, 1946

Korean War – June 27, 1950 to and including January 31, 1955

Vietnam Conflict – February 28, 1961 until May 7, 1975

Lebanon – June 1, 1983 – December 1, 1987

Grenada – October 23, 1983 – November 21, 1983

Panama – December 20, 1989 – January 31, 1990

Persian Gulf – August 2, 1990 to the end of such hostilities (not yet determined)

- For hostilities in Lebanon, Grenada, and Panama, the individual **must** have received the Armed Forces, Navy, or Marine Corps expeditionary medal.
- Beginning January 1, 1998, the NYS Constitution allows members of the US Armed Forces who are on active duty (other than for training purposes) the right to request **extra War Time Veterans Credits** on civil service examinations prior to discharge.

If you are currently on active duty, you may request the addition of veteran's credits to your examinations score. You must request the extra credits on your examination application in the space provided. If you pass the examination, the credits will be added automatically. To use the extra credits at the time of appointment you must have received an honorable discharge, be a US citizen, and be a resident of New York State. The extra credits can only be used for one NY local Government permanent appointment.

SECTION 23.2: This entire examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations which deal with the rating of examinations will apply.

APPLICATIONS: You may get application forms by writing, down loading from our web site @ www.saratogacountyny.gov, phoning #885-2225 or by calling in person at the Saratoga County Personnel Department, 40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Time and place of the examination will be mailed to approved candidates one week before the date of the examination.

SARATOGA COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

